Exploitation of Mineral Sands found in Coastal Belt in Kerala

5632. THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to exploit the mineral sands found in the coastal belt in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether industries are proposed to be set up to make finished products out of the mineral raw material found therein; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Indian Rare Earths Ltd. (IRE) is already operating the mineral sands separation plant at Chavara to produce minerals such as Illuminate, Rutile, Zircon, Sillimanite etc. Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited (KMML) a Kerala State Government Undertaking is also carrying out the mining of the beach sands minerals and in addition operating a plant to produce Titanium Dioxide (Ti02). Further, the company is examining the feasibility of exploiting the minerals in Kayamkulam Belt known as Ayiramthengu. IRE is also studying a proposal from the Government of Kerala to establish a joint venture to exploit the heavy minerals in the Neendakara area.

(c) and (d). The requirements of downstream industries in the state of Kerala for production of Ti02 are already being met from the production by these units. The principle downstream industries in the Kerala State consist of Titanium Dioxide (Ti02) Plant at Chavara (KMML) and Trivandrum (Titanium Products Ltd.) and Rare Earths Plant at Alwaye (IRE). The existing downstream industries elsewhere in the country are also drawing their requirement of Beach Sand Mineral from IRE. Further, it is proposed to set up production facilities for Titanium sponge. R&D work for this is underway.

Elections of Delegates in Kendriya Bhandar

5633. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when the elections for the delegates in the Kendriya Bhandar were held last;

(b) when these were due and the reasons for not holding the same in time; and

(c) the steps taken to conduct the elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Elections of the delegates in ten Kendriya Bhandar were last held in August & September, 1983.

(b) and (c). As per the provisions contained in the old Bye-laws the elections were to be held every 4 years, whereas under the revised Bye-laws which came into force on 10.4.1987, they were to be held every 3 years. However as the revised Bye-laws have been challenged in the Delhi High Court, the office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies has advised that election of the delegates may be held after the issue of the revised Bye-laws is settled by the High Court.

Irregularities in Rishikesh Unit of I.E.P.L.

5634. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Rishikesh unit of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited has been running in losses;

(b) if ;so, the reasons thereof and the extent of loss incurred so far since its inception;

(c) the reasons for granting production licence to private companies instead of exploiting the capacity of the plant itself;

(d) whether the unit is also suffering due to financial misappropriation in the purchase of raw material and machines and delayed sale of products from the depot; if so, whether nay enquiry committee is proposed to be set up to bring the culprits to book; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The accumulated losses of Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Hrishikesh Unit, as on 31.3.91 is estimated at Rs.183.47 crores (provisional). The major reasons for losses incurred in this unit of IDPL are low capacity utilisation; high wage component; heavy interest burden, frequent power breakdowns, non-availability of raw materials and the constraints of the working capital.

(c) Licences to other companies for manufacturers of various pharmaceuticals and drug items, have been issued by the Government in accordance with the policy in-vogue from time to time.

(d) There is no report about irregularities in the purchase of raw materials and machines. In order to ensure adequate lifting of indigenous material, users of Penicillin G First Crystals are now required to lift first the indigenous Penicilin G to become eligible for imported material in the ratio of 50:50.

(e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

CBI Raids on Government Officials

5635. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government Officials whose premises were raided by the Central Bureau of Investigation during each of the last two years;

(b) the names of the places where such raids were conducted;

(c) the value of the illegal assets recovered from them; and

(d) the number of officers convicted and acquitted separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) The information as under:

year	*No. of officials involved*
1989	226
1990	181

(b) The countrywide raids were carried out by CBI on residential/official premises of concerned officials at 96 places in 1989 & 77 places in 1990.

(c) During the raids, the following movable/immovable assets were discovered:

Movable	:	432.32 lakhs
Immovable	:	351.48 lakhs